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May 8, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville MD 20852

RE: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Irradiated Food

I urge you to extend the comment period past its current end date of May 18 to allow more concerned citizens the time to write in about this issue.

I support the recommendations of the Center for Science in the Public Interest regarding labeling of irradiated foods:

1) All foods, including those containing ingredients treated by irradiation, should be labeled with the international symbol and the terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation," so as to be truthful and not misleading. The term "pasteurization" should not be used; it is misleading because pasteurization is an entirely different process.

2) There should be no expiration date, that is, the requirement for irradiation disclosure should not expire.

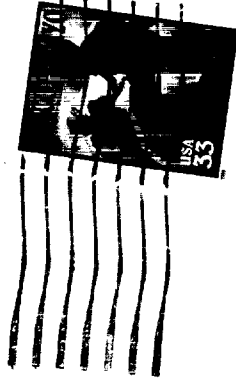
Sincerely,

*Richard G. Rettig*  
Richard G. Rettig

98N-1038

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